

# WITCHES' DEN

CLASIFICACIÓN: DRAWINGS

SERIE: CAPRICES NOT ENGRAVED



## DATOS GENERALES

CRONOLOGÍA

Ca. 1810 - 1820

UBICACIÓN

The Prado National Museum. Madrid, Madrid,  
Spain

DIMENSIONES

210 x 154 mm

TÉCNICA Y SOPORTE

RECONOCIMIENTO DE LA AUTORÍA DE GOYA

Documented work

TITULAR

El Prado National Museum

FICHA: REALIZACIÓN/REVISIÓN

25 Aug 2021 / 20 Apr 2023

INVENTARIO

1108 D3960

## INSCRIPCIONES

15 (in composite pencil, recto, lower left-hand corner)

45 (in composite pencil, recto, upper right-hand corner)

5 (in blue pencil, verso, upper part in the second support)

113 (in composite pencil, verso, upper right-hand side in the second support)

Frame partially marked with brush

#### HISTORIA

The drawing passed by inheritance in 1828 to Javier Goya, the painter's son, and in 1854 to Mariano Goya y Goicoechea, the artist's grandson. It was subsequently owned by Valentín Carderera (ca. 1861) and Mariano Carderera (ca. 1880). In 1886 it was acquired from Mariano Carderera by the General Direction of Public Instruction and was assigned to the Prado Museum, where it entered on 12 November 1886.

#### ANÁLISIS ARTÍSTICO

The den of the title is a kind of cave in which a perverse coven of witches and other demonic characters takes place. Among the swirl of naked bodies flutter black crows. Below, in the foreground, a large winged head takes part in the orgy next to the enormous buttocks of one of the witches in the centre of the scene. The witches have bald heads and grotesque faces, and their bony, angular limbs are reminiscent of the witches in some of Goya's sketchbook drawings, such as *Singing and Dancing* (D.3), *These Witches Will Say It* (C.69) and *Nothing They Say* (C.70). The theme of the gathering of witches is common in other series by Goya, such as the *Caprichos*, although the gouache technique and its combination with sanguine suggest that it dates from a later period, although a similar chronology cannot be completely ruled out. Pérez Sánchez thinks it could be a preparatory drawing for an unknown engraving.

#### EXPOSICIONES

##### Goya e Italia

Museo de Zaragoza Zaragoza 2008  
organized by the Fundación  
Goya en Aragón, consultant  
editor Joan Sureda Pons. From  
June 1st to September 15th 2008  
cat. 298

##### Europa 1789. Aufklärung, Verklärung, Verfall

Hamburger Kunsthalle Hamburg 1989  
cat. 489

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p. 231, n. 103  
1925  
Labor

SÁNCHEZ CANTÓN. Francisco Javier  
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##### Vie et oeuvre de Francisco de Goya

GASSIER, Pierre y WILSON, Juliet  
p. 296, cat. 1522  
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##### Dibujos de Goya, 2 vols

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PÉREZ SÁNCHEZ, Alfonso E.  
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CAMÓN AZNAR, José  
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LUNA, Juan J.  
vol. 2, p. 315, cat. 298  
2008  
Fundación Goya en Aragón y Turner

#### PALABRAS CLAVE

**ANTRO PÁJARO BRUJA ORGÍA AQUELARRE**

#### ENLACES EXTERNOS